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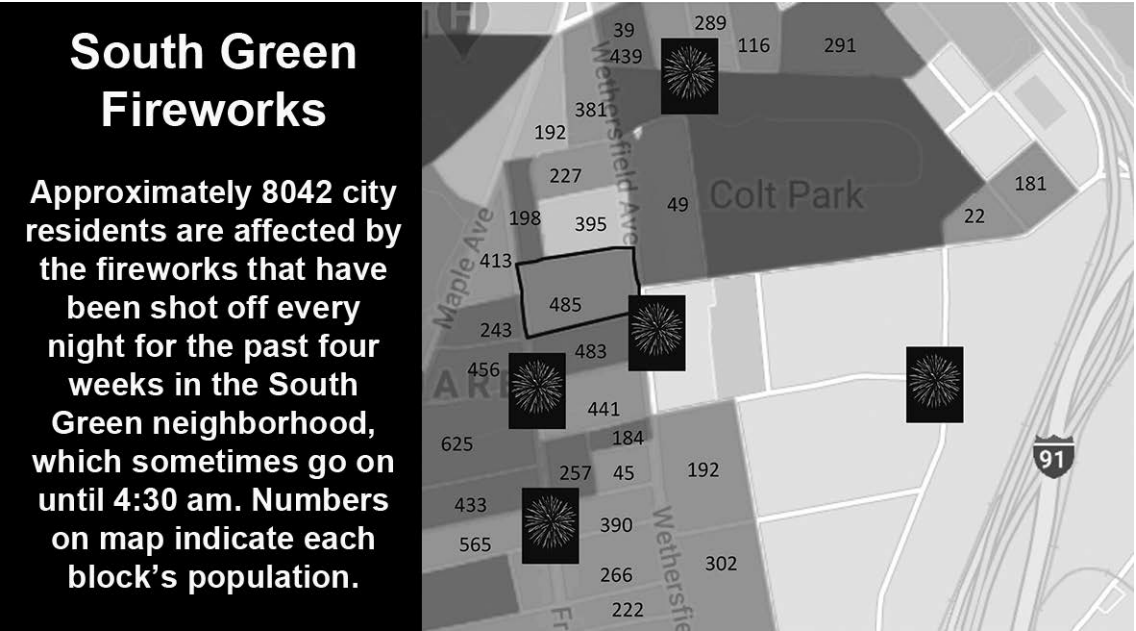
SOUTH GREEN FIREWORKS

Blowing stuff up out of all proportion? Yes!

COMMENTARY BY DONNA SWARR

A follow-up fireworks complaint survey will be posted on the Hartford News Facebook page this Friday, and I will keep it open until next Tuesday. I want to share the impact of these fireworks on the South Green and parts of CSS Con neighborhoods. You can see by the map that over 8,000 people are being impacted by them, including children and veterans who have been traumatized. I used the United States Census data to collect the number of residents. The city’s new plan to address this issue was to have a dedicated hotline for fireworks complaints, and the

away. So far there’s been one seizure of fireworks reported. But it was during a drug raid, so it looks like they just got lucky. The change in food truck hours effectiveness is too soon for me to see if it has helped. Some people on social media complained that there isn’t anywhere to go after clubbing. Why not allow food trucks outside of clubs? Or create a food truck designated area away from residential areas, similar to what’s done on New Haven. I sent an email to City Council to insist that they address this problem. The plan is not working



police would deploy additional officers, who would then focus on educating people about the city’s fireworks ban. They would seize illegal fireworks, and the food trucks along Wethersfield Avenue would have reduced hours of operation. The calls and texts have received little to no response since June 17th. Last Saturday night a riot broke out on Wethersfield Avenue. Mayor Luke Bronin told me that a police vehicle was damaged and that the officers were unsuccessful in clearing the street. He mentioned shutting down parts of Wethersfield Avenue as a future strategy. A section of that street was shut down Sunday night, but the fireworks were still going off in the parking lot of 331 Wethersfield Ave until 2:30am. Yes, I did call, but no action was taken. They were there for hours. Stonington Street had illegal fireworks that went on from 10 pm to 2:30 am on Friday June 19th. In this past Tuesday’s Hartford Courant, HPD Lieutenant Paul Cicero was quoted as saying that all the calls were responded to. That is not true in my case. I called every half hour after 2:30am on June 18th until 4:40am; they finally stopped at 4:50am. A resident at Armsmead noticed that when officers are deployed, they are not interacting at all with those shooting off fireworks, but are merely there to observe from inside their cruisers a distance


and we need more help. I included my State Representative Julio Concepcion and State Senator John Fonfara, asking them how the state could help. Senator Fonfara asked very specific questions, about if the calls were in fact being responded to, and I could honestly answer “No”. Representative Concepcion informed me that he was meeting with Mayor Bronin on Thursday this week to see how the state can provide some assistance. I have not yet heard back from any council members. Kerri Provost wrote "HartfordData shows that fireworks began being set off per Shotspotter on March 4, 2020..... These happened everywhere from Allen Place to May Street to Mark Twain Drive to Franklin Avenue" in her Real Hartford blog. I strongly recommend you read the entire article. The police did not address this growing problem and now it’s completely out of control. The food truck problem has escalated over the past three years along Wethersfield Ave. Numerous complaints have been made, but no strategy was created to address the problem until this week. My point is that problems cannot be swept under the rug, they need to be addressed and dealt with. But for the past five years, quality of life issues have been ignored and have now spun out of control. The streets of Hartford are out of control.

Kamp Kitt: Virtual Camp Fun with GreatHeart Griot, Andre Keitt

Next month, 2nd and 3rd graders can enjoy virtual camp fun with storyteller, Andre Keitt, Monday through Friday. The camp will run from July 1st to August 7th.

- Week I, July 6-10: Royal Robes: Fancy clothes don’t make the person: it’s what’s inside of you!
- Week II – July 13-17: This Land Is Your Land: Littering is not cool: polluting the air is bad too!
- Week III – July 20-24: Let’s Grow together: Who has a green thumb?
- Week IV – July 27-31: Wearing Many Hats: Get some “hatitude”, and make some, too!
- Week V – August 3-7: Arriving in Africa: People are the same wherever you go!

Cost - \$10 per day, \$50 a week, for one hour of online fun! To Register – Call (860-983-6473



Politically Speaking

A Fresh Look at Issues Facing our Region & State

BY MIKE MCGARRY

Not Enough Police

The idea that Hartford should disband its police force was correctly put to bed by the mayor and city council with the new budget they was adopted last week. The council and mayor did slash a couple of million out of the police budget, but it’s our guess that overtime and other hidden costs will necessitate a quiet transfer of funds in a few months when another emergency flares up. Those who do not fully understand Hartford, its problems and its history can easily say – as the Working Families Party does – that we have way too many cops. Well, how about when the whole COVID-19 situation is over and major events start being held again, like a baseball game, a parade, a concert in the meadows, a basketball game in the XL Center, a college graduation. Sometimes two or three of these events are held at the same time. Who will control all that traffic if not the police? The boy scouts? A few months ago, overdoses and drug sales (often near schools) had reached what many considered a crisis level. Who should we rely on in such situations? School crossing guards? And speaking of crossing guards, when one calls in sick at the last minute, who replaces them? A cop. With tens of thousands of commuters and visitors coming in and out of Hartford during normal times (which we hope will soon return), the city needs a fully-staffed, well-trained contingent of police officers who treats everyone the same. In fact, we need more officers right now to quell speeders and drunk drivers, domestic disputes, illegal fireworks...and to keep all those marchers safe.

Mayor Bronin, Time to Walk the Walk

Leading the city requires your feet on our streets...all of them

COMMENTARY BY ANNE GOSHDIGIAN

Right on his doorstep. Last week, Mayor Luke Bronin stood on the steps of his Elm Street brownstone surrounded by dozens of youth from Black America Undivided who were demanding sweeping reform that included a call for the de-funding of the Hartford Police Department. Captured in a 47-minute video by Fox Channel 61 that panned across the street to Bushnell Park where hundreds more marchers had gathered holding signs and chanting, the mayor was not only outnumbered at his own home, he appeared decidedly uncomfortable and out of his element. It was the first time in 5 ½ years that I’d seen him unable to control the conversation; he’s well known for that, especially at read what he’d outlined for the media earlier in the week knew the answer: four years, which would be after the end of his second—and likely final—term in office. Is it any wonder that he didn’t want to say that to the crowd? The video was posted on Facebook and rehashed for days. Some people, including supporters of Bronin as well as those who stand with the marchers, felt that to confront him at his home was wrong. And indeed, it was startling to see; unexpected and intimidating. But I confess to a twinge of admiration and respect for the boldness and persistence of the young people who were expressing themselves in no uncertain terms, and would not be deterred. To be honest, it was the

You are in the city, but not of the city. Here’s what you should do: Take a walk. Take lots of walks through all of Hartford’s neighborhoods – daytime and nighttime. Really see and experience Hartford the same way we ordinary folks do.

his Town Hall-style public meetings. There, if a constituent question turns up the heat on the mayor too much, he shuts down the conversation and briskly moves on to the next in line. As he tried to address the Elm Street throng through a borrowed bullhorn, he was frequently shouted down. Some of their retorts were laced with profanity, chants of “Throw him out!”, and insistence upon answering their repeated question, “What’s the timeline?”, referencing his plan to reform HPD and empower the citizens. He avoided responding, but those of us who’d best way to get him to listen to them. Since winning his first election (to any public office) in November 2015, Luke Bronin has steadily built up layers of “buffers” between himself and city residents. By design, the mayor became generally inaccessible to most of the Hartford citizens who have sought a one-on-one with him. I’ve heard reports of residents who’ve requested an audience with the mayor at his City Hall office, only to be denied and then escorted from the building after a security officer

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THE HARTFORD NEWS

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Hartford Policing: Will the Fix be a Band-Aid or a Permanent Change

COMMENTARY BY BILL KATZ

Hartford Police Department is like any other department, they are good until they are bad. It's the individual unfortunately that makes it bad for the aggregate. If the bad cop who gets cited repeatedly can't be fired because of union agreements, then the whole department suffers. And we all suffer. But police don't understand this. Police are taught to be all supportive for each other, which helps with job security. And let's face it, it's all about job security regardless of whether a cop kills in the line of aggressive duty.

Reducing the police budget by a million dollars is a nothing burger. It's a band aid approach that will have no lasting effect on changing the institution of policing. It's comparable to a hand slap. What is that fiscal reduction supposed to say and do, be a punishment ploy?

The current police union contract is up on June 30, 2022. This is the only thing that's important. The police chief and mayor might try and renegotiate the contract that is currently in force with regard to getting rid, yes, firing bad cops, plain and simple. No arbitration, no return to the ranks. Fire the cops that are a poor fit for policing. But that scenario is not likely to happen. They won't give up power and security voluntarily.

June 30, 2022 is the end of this contract. If a new one can't be negotiated that serves the people, then begin by organizing a new police force. The people have had enough brutality. One thousand Americans shot dead each year by police. Enough is enough.



Christopher Columbus Was a Token

Between 1880 and 1924, more than four million Italians immigrated to the United States. Italy wasn't even a country until 1861. Many southern Italians left the country due to decades of violence, social chaos, and poverty. Today, Americans of Italian descent are the fifth-largest ethnic group; there are a lot of us. The myth of Columbus began as a way to "Americanize" Italian immigrants. Even his name was changed, from Cristoforo Colombo to Christopher Columbus. The practice of naming cities, rivers, and landmarks after explorers was common after our country gained independence. He was used as a symbol of patriotism for this new immigrant population, and was touted as a great explorer who "discovered the Americas". The anniversary "of his arrival in the "Americas" was made into a national holiday in 1937. There is no proof Columbus ever set foot in North America. Do Americans of Italian descent still need recognition? My father was Italian, not Italian-American. I am Italian-American. In Italy they do not recognize him as a hero or even as being notable. Is Columbus someone we would have chosen as our cultural hero? I don't think so. More famous, more impressive Italians include Leonardo da Vinci and Galileo, and in 1989 a spacecraft was named after him.

I was relieved when Mayor Bronin announced last Tuesday the removal of the statue of Columbus on the green near the State Capitol. It was long overdue. The tide had turned on Columbus quite some time ago, but we just left him there hoping no one would notice. Are there other remembrances of him in our city? Yes, there are. But let's hold back from naming them after someone else. I prefer symbols of what we would like to envision as moving forward. Freedom, enlightenment, rising up like a phoenix. But, please let's not rush to rename them; instead, let's just let go of Columbus.

I realize that many people in Hartford have fond memories of the Columbus Day celebrations. But since we know that he's a symbol of enslavement, torture, and cruelty--for which he was punished in his lifetime--we will celebrate the Italian American culture without him.

Donna Sanchini Swarr, Hartford

A Fork in the Road

I am struggling with the daily news. COVID-19 pandemic. Black Lives Matter protesting police brutality. Out of control fireworks across the city. Glaciers melting faster than ever threaten coastal cities. We are facing three existential crises all at once. By existential, I mean a crisis of biblical proportions- plagues of locusts, raging fires, floods, pandemics... Oh wait, that is already happening!

If the COVID-19 pandemic has taught us anything, it is that there is a physical reality out there that obeys the laws of science and cares little about our political ideologies. Climate change is also a real physical phenomenon. We are pumping CO2 and other greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. Studies suggest that our climate is changing faster than we originally thought. The recent observations track what used to be the worst- case scenarios. We are running out of time to act to avoid making a planet much less hospitable for humans. But climate change is only #3 on my list of worries.

Tom Swarr, Hartford



RIVER DANCE – HARTFORD STYLE!

For the past few months, a talented group of break dancers has been gathering there once or twice a week for the past few months to show their stuff and learn from each other at Riverfront Plaza in Downtown Hartford. Above is John Paul Henares in mid-air and at right is John "Tang Sauce" Manselle Young. Other dancers include Henry Olivo, Hector DiCaprio, Taipan Gomez, Jennifer Lizondro, Nic Fortenbach and Louis Meyers. Olivo said he brings the portable dance mat, someone else brings a speaker or two and that all they need for a session - plus a lot of energy and talent, of course. (Hart photos)



CRT Encourages You to Complete the 2020 Census!

Are you interested in how the government spends money on schools, health care, emergency response services, and road maintenance here in Hartford? Ensuring accurate and complete Census data is key to implementing the programs & services that we all need!

You can make a difference by completing your Census today! It only takes a couple of minutes, but it will do a lifetime of good! Go Online and Do Your Census today!

<https://2020census.gov/>
#EveryoneCounts

Community Renewal Team
Changing lives... Creating opportunity!

Have questions? Email CRT at: info@crtct.org

HPL to Honor Hartford Changemakers with Mural Project

In an effort to expand the traditional historical narrative of Hartford, Hartford Public Library will work with city teens, elders, and local artists to create public art celebrating the stories of city change makers from the Black, Latinx, and indigenous communities.

Jasmin Agosto, education and community outreach manager for the Hartford History Center at the Library, Liz Castle, programming and events manager, and Nygel White, program coordinator for the YOUmedia Hartford teen center came together to develop this project.

The Ensworth Foundation of Bank of America awarded the library a \$14,000 grant to support the project.

The collective of teens, adults and muralists will create at least two murals, one each in the North End and the South End. They are tentatively scheduled to be unveiled in September 2020 at family friendly virtual celebrations that will include a DJ, brief remarks by team members and partners, story sharing by elders, and live performances by workshop participants and local performers. Leading up to the celebrations, there will be a workshop series around mural design, performance, storytelling, movement, and photo documentation. “Hartford has a vibrant artist community and our programming is an opportunity for Hartford artists to showcase and teach their art forms,” Castle said.

The library has opened registration for the Hartford Changemakers summer program, which is geared to Hartford residents ages 13 and older. Interested individuals can sign up by going to: bit.ly/HartfordChangeMakers

The virtual workshops will begin July 13 and run through August 21. The workshops will integrate themes

- around leadership, organizing, and creative responses to shaping history in your own neighborhood.
- Each virtual workshop will engage approximately 20 participants for six, 90 minute sessions and will include:
- Mural design and execution with Lindaluz Carrillo
 - Storytelling with master storyteller Andre Keitt
 - Music creation and performance with Khaiim Kelly the RapOet aka Self Suffice
 - Poetry writing and performance with a local poet
 - Dance with Jus Hues of Jus Move Studios and Ginette Christie
 - Documentary photography with Jasmine Jones

“The program was designed with an effort to help remedy the erasure of Black, Latinx, and indigenous people from Hartford’s traditional historical narrative. Hartford’s history often only highlights white historical figures such as Mark Twain and Harriet Beecher Stowe. The selected changemakers, many of which were part of an exhibit project the Hartford History Center produced in 2017, will represent communities that are relevant to the majority of current Hartford residents in an effort to increase inclusivity in the historical record,” Agosto said.

The program also fits in with HPL’s ongoing efforts to create practical opportunities for city teens to increase their skills. “Hartford has a growing creative industry. The teens who participate in the program will gain an understanding of how their creative skill sets can improve their communities and their future careers,” White said.

With COVID-19, Hartford Schools Made Big Changes, Quickly

Part two of a two-part story on distance learning

BY LUKE HARRINGTON

I interviewed several parents in Hartford to get an idea of how distance learning was affecting them. Some are taking it in stride. Alcea, a working mother of four from the West End, tells me “It’s been easy.” She has four elementary-aged kids attending Global Communications Academy. “They know exactly what to do” when it comes to logging on to the computer to do their coursework. George, who has four sons at Weaver, says, “I love my kids, so it’s not a stress for me.”

For other parents, it hasn’t been such smooth sailing. “Distance learning is rather difficult”, says Jasmine Phillips of Baltimore St. “It demands a lot of your time.” Her daughter Samaj was a second-grader at CREC’s University of Hartford Magnet School this past school year. Ms. Phillips, a stay-at-home mother, says that keeping her daughter focused is more difficult at home, although one benefit of distance learning is that she can give her daughter one-on-one attention that she might not get at school. “But then again”, she says, “I’m not



a teacher.” That means a lot of catching up on what her daughter is learning before she can help. She said that the teachers and staff have been very supportive and communicative. Indeed, there seemed to be near-universal praise for teachers, which have been calling parents regularly to check in and update them on their child’s progress.

The students I talked to would rather have been in school than learning from home. Ms. Phillips’ daughter Samaj figures she’s probably not learning as well at home. “At times”, she says, “I get distracted”. Jada, who lives in the South End of Hartford and is a 9th grade student at Achievement First, told me that her teachers have given her more work than usual while she’s learning from home, but that there

are certain benefits, like added flexibility. “Because it’s at home” says Jada, “you can do [your schoolwork] anytime you want. You can just turn it in at 12 o’clock.” Ivan Santana, a tenth grader at Weaver, is the son of George, who I talked to on Babcock St. He says distance learning hasn’t worked out for him. “I need a teacher in front of me to help explain the work” he said. He also told me he gets distracted more easily at home.

Amber Riley-Wilson, a 5th grade Science teacher at Rawson Elementary, confirms some of my findings: some students do well with distance learning, and others miss the support that comes from being in the same room. In addition to posting assignments on Google Classroom, she uses video conferencing for scheduled lessons, adding more video meet-ups if students have questions about their assignments. When it comes to keeping her students on track, Ms. Riley-Wilson says that keeping in

Continued on page 8

Downtown with COVID-19: Mental Health, Homelessness, and Drug Addiction

BY LEVEY KARDULIS

I remember that first morning when numerous businesses and restaurants either closed or sent workers home to work online because of the Covid. I couldn’t even recognize anyone because of their masks, hoods, glasses. Any other time you think you would be getting stuck up in a robbery.

I always noticed the large population of people experiencing homelessness in downtown even before I moved down here. Now with the few workers left downtown, it’s mostly the homeless and the downtown residents left. How can anyone ignore people walking aimlessly through the streets of downtown during the Covid-19?

As I’m walking down Main Street I see a former student from one of the schools I worked in as Head Custodian, Jesse*. This school was for the students that didn’t always fit into the square hole. A troubled young man with mental health issues, homelessness issues, and I’m sure many other issues that were not in the Head Custodian’s log book or emails. I’ve been seeing him throughout the years. He’s been living in the streets, bouncing in and out of shelters. Since Covid hit, the shelters are now only taking people who are already there, so Jesse had to figure out something else. I asked him, “Where are you sleeping at night?”

He tells me that he takes the bus to his cousin’s house in New Britain: “My cousin gets out of work at 8p.m. so she is usually home by 9 p.m. Sometimes she leaves the door unlocked so I can sleep in her house. If not, I’m more than welcome to sleep in the hallway of her building, which is what I do.” Jesse has been from one house to another since he was a young boy. He goes on to tell me that he rarely has enough food to eat and since the Covid there has been more distance between people so

very few opportunities to panhandle. “All I’ve had today was a little granola.” It’s nearly 12:30.

Jesse was able to have lunch today.

I went to another place that I knew I would be able to run into some more unfortunate residents without a home to live. St. Patrick and St. Anthony Roman Catholic Church is located on Church and Ann Street. This church has a long history in the city of Hartford for helping the homeless. Always.

There I met two other homeless guys, George* and Frank*. Frank was using the electrical plug outside the church to charge his flip phone. These guys, unlike Jesse, are not from the city. Frank is from Windsor Locks, and has been here in Hartford for over 15 years. George is from Enfield. I have seen him behind my building on several occasions. Yes, I have given him money before.


They had the same story to tell. They are sleeping where they can, sometimes on the bench, or under the overpass. Since the Covid the shelters have closed, or at least stopped taking new clients. George pointed out the new apartments that are slated for college students and said “The shelters are putting people in some local hotels on the Berlin Turnpike and in East Hartford.” I reached out to an organization that is located in Hartford. I wanted to verify that homeless people have been being placed in local hotels. When I called it turned out that the information was accurate. I was told that the shelters are complying with the 6-foot rule. “In order to comply with the order from the governor’s office some were sent to these hotels. Since the hotels were empty many homeless were placed there.” This however made me think of the employees at the homeless shelters. That is

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To Test or Not to Test?

Or for that matter, which test?

OPINION BY DONNA SWARR

Since I'm in the age bracket where the governor, in Phase I, told me to stay home, I have.

I didn't like it one bit. I didn't like being told that I am at risk. I called my doctor in March and asked her if, in fact, I was in the high risk bracket. She told me I wasn't, due to my general health.

Whew!

But then I realized it wasn't about me. It was about everybody else; my family, my friends, and anyone I would come into contact with. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, I provided daycare for my granddaughters. But with their mom home — well, I wasn't needed. My son and daughter-in-law have been sensitive to possibly exposing my husband and myself to the virus, as he's still working in a manufacturing facility. No one wants to have to tell their kids that they killed Gramma and Grampa.

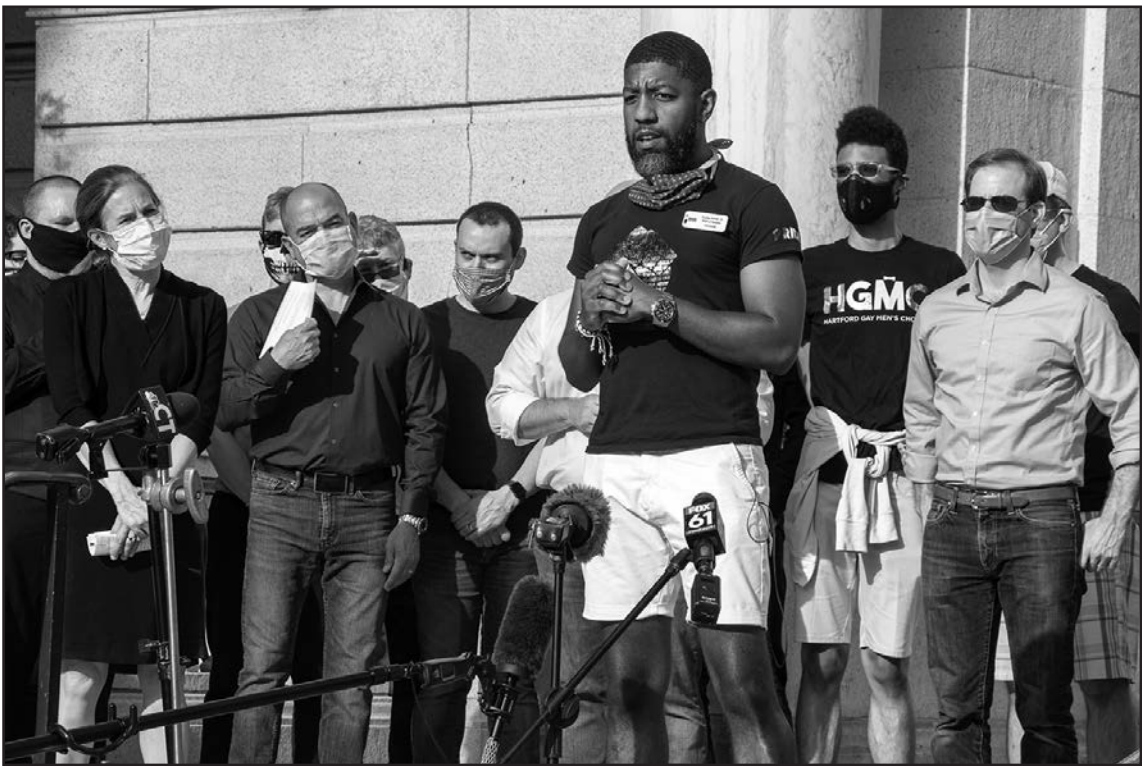
It has been really hard emotionally for me. My granddaughters make me laugh, every kind of laugh: a giggle, chortle, cackle, belly laugh, and snort. What fun we have! I looked forward to every day they came. When we enter Phase III, most likely they will go off to Kindergarten and Pre-K. The pre-COVID plan was that I would be able to be there after Pre-K and when the bus dropped off the kindergartener. Now everything is up in the air, but wait,

I'm retired, so I can easily go with the flow. Not so for just about anyone else! But what about my exposure to Coronavirus? I have decided to go for the Covid antibody test. Since I am on Medicare I luckily chose a plan that covered the cost. If it comes back positive, I will still wear a mask and gloves, I will practice social distancing, and I will not go out into large groups of people because I can still carry the virus and therefore share the virus. But, if it's negative, arrgh! I will need to get tested weekly while caring for my granddaughters.

I'm curious about what the teachers and other educators who come into close contact daily with students at school are going to do? Will they need to be tested two weeks before school starts? Will the schools or the union provide the testing like they do with flu shots every fall? Will the schools or the union provide weekly or bi-weekly tests?

God Bless the school nurses. I have very serious concerns about them. What about the janitors? I know they don't call them janitors anymore, but you know who I'm referring to. What risk are they exposed to? Will the schools or unions provide adequate PPE? Will we have another run on PPE? Ocean State has really good face shields, check it out.

I'm curious about what the teachers and other educators who come into close contact daily with students at school are going to do? Will they need to be tested two weeks before school starts? Will the schools or the union provide the testing like they do with flu shots every fall? Will the schools or the union provide weekly or bi-weekly tests?



Supreme Court Ruling Celebrated at City Hall

On Monday, June 15, Lt. Governor Bysiewicz and Mayor Luke Bronin hosted a quickly organized celebration at Hartford City Hall of the Supreme Court ruling that it is illegal to terminate an employee solely because they are gay or transgender. Among the speakers (above) was Curtis 'Disciple' Porter, III, a board member of the Hartford Gay and Lesbian Health Collective. (Hart photo)

HPL Offers Online Citizenship Classes

Hartford Public Library will begin offering online U.S. citizenship classes starting next month. Classes will be held on Saturdays, starting July 11, from 1 to 3 pm. Class registration is required by texting or calling 860-490-8402 or reaching out via e-mail to learn-ing@hplct.org.



Time To Walk the Walk

Continued from page 2

was called. He does make public appearances at ribbon-cuttings and groundbreakings, which are always well-documented by print and visual media as well as his own staff members. His remarks on these occasions are quoted liberally and are the stuff of countless sound bites on the evening news. This is in stark contrast to several previous Hartford mayors, including Carrie Saxon Perry, Mike Peters, and George Athanson, who welcomed interaction with the general public; their office doors were always open. In addition, they were out there on the streets of Hartford, as well as in local restaurants and watering holes, ready to listen to the voters, attend their celebrations, meet their families, and visit the homebound and hospitalized. They walked the neighborhoods and knew the shopkeepers and the cops on the beat. They kissed babies, petted dogs, and handed out candy to kids. They knew your name. And if you had a problem, they'd invite you to tell them about it and see what could be done, even when it wasn't campaign season. In other words, yes, they were politicians, but they were relaxed and comfortable with the average Janes and Joes. And it showed.

Mayor, you consult with your hand-selected "city leaders". You venture into (some of) the neigh-

borhoods during campaign season. But the rest of the time you're perceived by Hartford residents as being in the proverbial "ivory tower". You are in the city, but not of the city. Here's what you should do: Take a walk. Take lots of walks through all of Hartford's neighborhoods—daytime and nighttime. Really see and experience Hartford the same way we ordinary folks do. Contemplate the real Hartford and absorb the very pressing issues that the people in every part of this town cope with daily. You don't need to bring an escort or a retinue; you're not afraid, are you? Leave your videographer/photographer back at the office. Tell Vas not to alert the media—print or television. Just be Joe Citizen who's not running for anything. Forget the tie. Wear jeans, sneakers and a tee-shirt or hoodie. Blend in. See, hear, and think with no political agenda and no filter. And then act. Walk a mile or two or three in our shoes. It's called empathy. Then practice the transparency you ran on. It will serve you well in your future public life. We are not the enemy, and are not to be fooled. We—all of us in every neighborhood—are Hartford.

The opinions expressed here are from the standpoint of my work as a journalist and as a city resident, and do not reflect my employment at any other entities, or their missions.

Hands On Hartford Virtual Volunteer Opportunities

Join together to continue to volunteer with Hands On Hartford even when we cannot be together. All of these opportunities will have a positive impact in the City of Hartford and nearby communities. If interested in an opportunity please contact: Volunteering@handsonhartford.org for more information.

Host a Neighborhood Food Drive



Join together with your neighbors to host a food drive for the MANNA Community Pantry. Send an email or create a flyer to your neighbors. Try to give about a week's notice so that people have time to grocery shop for the items. Set a time that you will collect donations. Usually a 3-hour window on a weekend works well. Donations can be dropped off at Hands On Hartford Monday-Friday between 9-4pm or at other times by appointment. Most needed nonperishable items include: canned soup, canned vegetables and fruit, rice, peanut butter, jelly and pasta. Planning on doing this as a corporate event? Encourage a drive through food drive in your parking lot. Have several volunteers available with their trunks open so co-workers can drive through and place donations into the trunks. Once the trunks are full you can make your way to Hands On Hartford to have your items weighed and stocked on the shelves.

Read a book to students at The Gengras Center and Hartford Public School Students



Pick your favorite picture book or young children's book. Find a comfortable spot and take a video of you reading the book. Then please email the file of you reading to kthibault@handsonhartford.org. The Video will then be uploaded to a private YouTube Channel which will be distributed to The Gengras Center and some of our partner elementary schools. This is a great way for students to have access to stories over the summer. This is a great family project so feel free to include young children and teens as well. Use a nice clear voice and feel free to be animated and enthusiastic. Books can be read in English or Spanish. Individuals who submit a video will need to sign a release so we can share your video on YouTube.

Host a Toiletry Drive

Did you know that our Community Meals Program distributes thousands of toiletry packs to our guests each year? We are in need of small sized toiletries to pass out to our guests. Using a similar model to our food drive you can collect toiletries to be donated to Community

Continued on page 11



Elizabeth Park straddles the Hartford-West Hartford town line along Prospect Avenue, but it is completely owned and managed by the City of Hartford. It is far from the city's largest park, but it is one of its most popular. It's famous Rose

Garden, opened in 1904, attracts people from around the world. The park has several other magnificent gardens, as well as greenhouses, athletic fields, a concert stage and even lawn bowling. Elizabeth Park also has its own restaurant, the

privately managed Pond House Cafe. Land for the park was donated to the City of Hartford in 1895 by Hartford Trust Company President Charles Pond and named in honor of his wife, Elizabeth.



For Every Member of the Family!

Join Us for a Coronavirus Testing Event at InterCommunity!

We'll have several testing teams, snacks and giveaways! Stop by and find out if you or a member of your family have coronavirus.

Saturday, June 27, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
16 Coventry Street, Hartford

- Testing for adults and children
- Walk up testing at 16 Coventry Street
- No appointment needed
- Test is a self-administered nasal swab

- Bring identification and insurance card
- InterCommunity will call you with the results of your test
- Insurance and uninsured accepted

Please note: in the event of rain, this testing event will be cancelled.

Help us stop the spread of coronavirus.

Get tested on June 27, right in Hartford's North End!

Please wear a face mask, scarf or bandanna and observe social distancing of 6 feet while waiting to be tested.



Need a bandanna?

We have a limited number of bandannas for those who need them... **FREE**, while supplies last!



InterCommunity Health Care
Health Care for the Whole Person

16 Coventry Street, Hartford
www.intercommunityct.org
Nosotros hablamos español.

   **#WeWontStopCaring**

Access Health CT Offers Options to Residents who Lost Healthcare Coverage from Job Loss, COVID-19

As the unemployment rate continues to climb across Connecticut, many residents are finding themselves at the end of a furlough or laid off. And they are finding themselves without health insurance that was previously offered by their employer. People who find themselves in this situation have options, and Access Health CT is here to help.

Access Health CT is the state’s health insurance marketplace and can help individuals and small businesses shop, compare, and enroll in a health plan that is right for them or their family. Access Health CT is the only place where people can get financial help to lower the costs of their health insurance. Depending on household income, people could be eligible for Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), which offers free or low-cost healthcare coverage, or Qualified Health Plans with insurance companies like Anthem or ConnectiCare.

Job loss with the loss of employer-sponsored coverage is considered a Qualifying Life Event (QLE) and allows people to enroll in health insurance during a Special Enrollment Period which happens outside of the Annual Open Enrollment Period. There are other QLEs too, that may allow people to enroll during this time, like losing your coverage, having a baby, moving to CT, turning 26, among others.

Qualifying Life Events (QLEs)

Most Common Qualifying Life Events



Loss of coverage due to job change



Loss of coverage through your employer



Exhaustion of COBRA coverage



Move to CT

See the full list of events at [Learn.AccessHealthCT.com](https://www.accesshealthct.com/learn)

Some who have lost their jobs may be considering COBRA coverage. COBRA is a federal law that lets people stay on their employer’s healthcare plans after they lose their job. With COBRA coverage, people may have to pay 100% of the monthly premiums (or payments), including the share their employer paid,

and a small administrative fee. Therefore, Access Health CT recommends comparing options through [AccessHealthCT.com](https://www.accesshealthct.com) in addition to COBRA coverage, as it may be a better, less expensive choice.

Those who lost their insurance during the last two months will need to act quickly. People who lose health insurance due to job loss have 60 days from the day their coverage ends, or 60 days before their coverage will end if they know in advance to apply for health insurance through Access Health CT. People may apply for Medicaid or CHIP at any time during the year.

Access Health CT has partnered with the Department of Labor to reach out to organizations who are laying off employees to make sure they understand Access Health CT is an option for employees to continue having health insurance coverage.

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, Access Health CT has been able to enroll 177 individuals and families in Qualified Health Plans, and 3,112 individuals and families into Medicaid coverage.

Enrollment Stats in Your Community



177
Individuals and families in Qualified Health Plans

3,112
Individuals and families into Medicaid/HUSKY* coverage

*Medicaid offers free or low-cost healthcare coverage if your household meets the income & other requirements.

For those who may be unsure, or unaware of their options during this time, Access Health CT offers **FREE** help.

- Online: [AccessHealthCT.com](https://www.accesshealthct.com)
- Phone: 1-855-805-4325 (TTY 1-855-789-2428), M-F 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Educational site: [Learn.AccessHealthCT.com](https://www.accesshealthct.com/learn)
- Live Chat

Downtown with COVID-19

Continued from page 4

another story. I asked George and Frank how they’ve been eating during the Covid. Frank answered in a very nonchalant way, “We eat out the dumpster. But there’s less now because the restaurants downtown have closed.”

What I have noticed is that the homeless population is being completely neglected. Many of our homeless in the Downtown area have mental health and self-medicating issues which leads many to drug addiction and alcohol abuse. These seem to go hand and hand from my observation. The city has also been developing new apartments in the Downtown area that are not accessible to the homeless or subsidized housing even though the apartments remain mostly empty. In this current administration we have the mayor’s office and city council fighting against the injustice of slum lords. Then on the other side of the table we have the ever powerful finance committee. This committee dictates many new developments that are

slated to begin in the city such as the development of new retail around Dunkin Donuts Park, new luxury housing. This committee, appointed by the mayor, also dictates the market rate and size of apartments in downtown. So why would the mayor fight against the slumlords where many of the impoverished residents live and then appoint this committee to out price the market and dictate housing size? With this formula families that live with mice, roaches, silverfish, and rats will continue to live that way while homeless people are left out of this conversation completely, living under bridges, alleys and shadows. So many are left out of the new, bright future that the Mayor has planned for the City of Hartford.

**All names have been changed to protect the privacy of individuals. About the Author: My name is Levey Kardulis life long resident of Hartford and a concerned community activist. I worked for the city of Hartford for 26 years while ensuing that my four children all graduated*

from Hartford Schools. In the end you will not remember the words of your enemies but the silence of your friends. Copyrighted by Levey Kardulis. Editorial assistance provided by Megan Brown. This work is part of the “Telling Our Covid Stories” project by the Center for Hartford Engagement and Research (CHER) at Trinity College. As the creator of Downtown with Covid-19, I agree that this is my original work, and that I retain the copyright. Also, I grant permission for this work to be distributed with my full name to the public, including formats such as print and the Internet. Under this agreement, I keep the copyright to my work, but agree to share it under a Creative Commons Attribution – NonCommercial – NoDerivatives 4.0 International license (BY-NC-ND). This allows the public to freely download and share my work, but only if they credit the creator; use it for non-commercial purposes, and do not make any changes. Learn more about Creative Commons licenses at <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/>

Black Lives Matter Protests

Continued from page 1

- The classification of false-reporting as a hate crime.
- An end to mass incarceration and the prison-industrial complex, starting with the exoneration of all people in prison for non-violent crimes, marijuana-related crimes and those that have been wrongfully accused.
- Immediate election and assembly of a Community Review Board of the police that accurately represents the community.
- Mandatory inclusion of a full and accurate depiction of black history in all public and private schools in Connecticut.
- Creation of a Hartford Black Youth Council of persons age 12-18 to review budgets and new legislation.
- Elimination of armed forces recruiters and recruitment offices in inner-city and lower-income schools.
- Destruction of all racist imagery, artifacts, monuments and statues in Connecticut immediately.
- An end to the war on poor communities through the requiring of all mid to large size companies to pay workers a living wage regardless of race, gender, sexuality or citizenship; state-sponsored stimulus payments to full and part-time workers, students and parents who have been economically effected by the COVID-19 pandemic; the

- remediation of homelessness and the creation of equitable housing for all; new state legislation aimed at ending environmental racism; and equitable medical care for all including all mental and physical health conditions as well as preventive care.
- The elimination of tax cuts to wealthy persons and corporations.
 - Accessible voting and the elimination of voter suppression, including same-day voter registration; voting rights for those in prison and on parole; the acceptance of other legal forms of identification beside state-issued ID to qualify for voting; the fair and equal distribution, staffing and operation of polling stations in all towns.

After several more speeches at the State Capitol on Friday, the BUA demonstration marched past Hartford Police Headquarters and then down Main Street to City Hall, where several other speakers described their personal experiences with racism, police misconduct and economic disparities, Marchers then went to Mayor Luke Bronin’s home. Last week, Bronin had joined with City Council in rejecting a proposal to cut the police budget by approximately 21%, as had been proposed by city council members Wildaliz Bermudez and Josh Michtom of the Working Families Party. The mayor and council did approve a \$1 mil-

lion cut to the police department’s budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021. In addition, approximately \$1 million in the police budget will be redirected from the HPD detention center and vice and narcotics division to fund training in de-escalation and cultural competency and walking-beats for more police officers. Bronin met with demonstrators for about an hour at his home on Friday, and agreed to hold further talks on Monday. Bronin did meet with BUA representatives on Monday, as well as representatives from Black Lives Matter 860. Following the meetings, Bronin stated, “While it can be hard to have real conversations at a rally, today was an important opportunity to listen to some of the young people who are a part of that movement, to have serious, honest discussions, and to find common ground. While I disagree deeply with the idea of abolishing or drastically defunding the police, it’s clear from my meetings today and from many other conversations that there are a wide range of perspectives and priorities, even among those leading the protests in our community, and plenty of room for us to work together toward a common reform agenda. The young people leading these protests care deeply, they have many good ideas and powerful experiences to share, and they are rightly pushing hard for change – and those of us in elected office have to duty both to listen and to take action. We will continue pushing forward with reforms in Hartford, like strengthening the Civilian Police Review Board, building a civilian crisis response team, and ensuring that Hartford is leading the way nationally when it comes to training, de-escalation, and accountability. And I’ll continue to talk with anyone and everyone who is interested in a serious discussion about how we can make our community safer, healthier, stronger and more equitable.”



Music Al Fresco and Gratis in the West End

On Sunday, June 7, Hartford musician and artist Carlos Hernandez Chaves (above) hosted a concert on the front porch and lawn of his home on Oxford Street in Hartford’s West End. Some of the most talented musicians in the area performed at the show, including Ed Fast and Dave Giardina (below), Gonzalo Cortez, Brian Wallace, Dave Stoltz, Markus Centola, Kris Jensen and singer Nadia Aguilar. Carlos is planning to host another concert in the next few weeks...check the Hartford News Facebook page for updates! (Hart photos)



News Briefs

Continued from page 1

are eligible to vote in the 2020 Hartford Decide\$ process. Hartford Decide\$ is a participatory budgeting process that allows Hartford residents to have real power over real money. Those voting can choose the project(s) they most want to see happen from a list of nominees. The projects with the most votes will be funded by the City of Hartford from a budget item designated for the program. Voting is open until Friday,

June 26; go to www.HartfordDecides.org to vote online or call (860) 256-8505 to request a mail-in paper ballot and project list. Among this years nominated projects are: an expanded YouMedia center at Hartford Public Library; bike repair kits for schools; igloos for the Bushnell Ice Skating Rink; urban thinkscapes; Keney Park fitness trail; improved basketball courts at Lozada and Pope Parks and the Winter-Green Community Garden.


Distance Learning

Continued from page 4

touch is important, and that she communicates with families even more frequently than she had been pre-pandemic. “You have to stay connected; this is a difficult time” she says. “This is something we’ve never experienced before, not just with distance learning, but with the pandemic itself.” She knows that it’s been a stressful time for families, so she monitors her students’ learning activities online, and reaches out if she sees students falling behind. As a teacher, she says the initial transition period was difficult, with a lot of effort spent making sure all the students were connected. Almost three months in, things were going smoother. Essential to the transition has been a sense of cooperation. “My school has been a tremendous support” says Riley-Wilson, with teachers, administration, parents, and students working together. There are not yet concrete plans

for the upcoming school year. Much depends on the severity of the pandemic come fall. Teachers are anxious to reunite with their students, and students with their teachers, but safety comes first. John Fergus, the Communications Director for HPS, points to the possibility of blended learning for the coming school year. Students would go to school on an alternating schedule, doing the rest of their learning from home, thus blending in school and distance learning. Such a scheme would reduce the number of students in school buildings, making social distancing easier and limiting potential outbreaks. Fergus says students will eventually be back to school every day, but that the pandemic has changed what education will look like going forward. There will be more digital integration, and students, especially in high school, could be given more freedom to work from home.

Need A Mover?



Call Robert
860-308-5455

\$300 and up
to Move a 1-BR
Apartment

\$400 and up
to Move a 2-BR
Apartment

Scrap Metal
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El Informativo Latino

COVID-19 está entrando en una “nueva y peligrosa fase”

El director general de la Organización Mundial de la Salud (OMS), Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, alertó este viernes en una conferencia de prensa que la pandemia de coronavirus está entrando en una “nueva y peligrosa fase”, después de que en la última jornada se haya registrado una cifra récord de más de 150.000 infecciones en un día a nivel mundial

El funcionario expresó que “el mundo está en una nueva y peligrosa fase (...) el crecimiento de la pandemia es aún rápido, es aún mortal y muchas personas son aún susceptibles de contagiarse”. Además, informó que más de 150.000 nuevos casos se confirmaron en la jornada de este jueves, siendo el mayor número de contagios en el mundo desde que comenzó la pandemia.

A escala global, ya se contabilizan más de 8.600.000 casos confirmados, así como más de 450.000 fallecidos. Casi la mitad de los confirmados, en las últimas 24 horas, corresponden a la región de las Américas, con importantes números de Asia y el Medio Oriente, según expresó Ghebreyesus. El director general de la OMS ha recordado a los ciudadanos que siguen vigentes los consejos para evitar el contagio: “Continúen manteniendo distancia con los demás, quédense en casa si se sienten enfermos, sigan cubriéndose la nariz y la boca al toser, lleven mascarilla cuando sea conveniente y no dejen de lavarse las manos”. Y ha pedido a las redes sanitarias que sigan enfocadas en la búsqueda, aislamiento y realización de test a posibles casos.

Juneteenth marca el fin de la esclavitud en EE.UU. y hoy 155 años después millones lo celebran

Connecticut, EE. UU. es un día festivo ampliamente celebrado que marca la libertad de los negros esclavizados en los Estados Unidos. Este año, el día tiene un significado especial, a la luz de las protestas de Black Lives Matter contra la brutalidad policial, que terminaron con la muerte de George Floyd, y anteriormente con la de Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery y Rayshard Brooks. La Proclamación de Emancipación, que liberaba esclavos en los Estados Unidos, fue emitida por el presidente Abraham Lincoln en enero de 1863. Sin embargo, la noticia de su orden tardó mucho más y no llegó a esclavos en Galveston, Texas, hasta dos años después. Un 19 de junio de 1865, el general de la Unión Gordon Granger leyó la proclamación allí. Las generaciones se han celebrado el 19 de junio desde entonces. *By Iris Rodríguez*



Una princesa llamada Analeah Rosa celebró su cumpleaños virtual el día 20 de Junio de 2020. De parte de sus padres que te aman Belkis Sostre, Ramon Rosa y abuela Belkis te desean muchas felicidades. De parte de Hartford Newspapers y La diferente Radio felicidades. *By Iris Rodríguez*



Beam Signing At New Park Library

Foundation work on Hartford Public Library's new Park Street Branch has been completed and the two-story facility will now start to rise above its location at the southeast corner of Park and Broad Streets in Hartford's Frog Hollow neighborhood. To mark the occasion, supporters of the new branch were invited to sign one of the building's steelbeams on Monday and Tuesday of this week. Above is Park Street Branch Manager Graciela Rivera; below is State Representative Minnie Gonzalez. The new 13,000 square foot library will replace the current 2,500 square foot branch. Completion is scheduled for the spring of 2021. *(Hart photos)*





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122 efficiency apartments | 68 one-bedroom apartments
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For More Information, Visit our Website!
www.immanuelhousect.org



Motor Vehicles Dept.Partially Reopens By Appointment Only

The Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles reopened select offices on June 23. Services will be offered by appointment only. Details are below:

Road Tests (Non-CDL)

- Road testing resumed June 23, 2020. Approximately 1,000

- road tests have been rescheduled through June 30th
- Customers are being called by DMV staff to schedule previously cancelled appointments.

Services Offered by Appointment at the DMV

- Appointments are now available for new licenses and IDs, license and ID renewals, out of

- state license and registration transfers, and CDL upgrades.
- Locations for Learner’s Permit Knowledge Tests: Wethersfield, Cheshire, Willimantic, Old Saybrook, Norwalk, and Danbury.
- Registration Services (new registrations) will begin on June 30, 2020 at these locations: Wethersfield, Willimantic, and Danbury
- Appointments can be made by visiting: <https://portal.ct.gov/dmv/>
- Link located within the “yellow alert box” to the appointment page.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF Johnell Rashee Barno (20-00397)

The Hon. Foye A. Smith, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated June 15, 2020, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Carmen Y. Zayas, Clerk

The fiduciary is: Keith Johnson
c/o Garrett Michael Moore Moore, O Brien & Foti
891 Straits Turnpike, Middlebury, CT 06762

Glenda Barno
c/o Garrett Michael Moore, Moore, O Brien & Foti
891 Straits Turnpike Middlebury, Ct 06762

LIQUOR PERMIT NOTICE OF APPLICATION

This is is to give notice that I,

ROBERT CARRASCO
86 NILAN ST
HARTFORD, CT 06106-3744

Have filed and application placarded 06/11/2020 with the Department of Consumer Protection for a RESTAURANT LIQUOR PERMIT for the sale of alcoholic liquor on the premises at 860 MAIN ST EAST HARTOFRD, CT 06108-3118

The business will be owned by: MAIN 860, LLC

Entertainment will consist of Acoustics (not amplified), Concerts, Disc Jockeys, Live Bans, Comedians

Objectons must be filed by: 07-23-2020

ROBERT CARRASCO

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF Christine Carol Collins (20-00513)

The Hon. Foye A. Smith, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated June 23, 2020, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Carmen Y. Zayas, Clerk

The fiduciary is: Mamie Bell
244 Cleveland Avenue Hartford, CT 06120

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF Dorothea Christoffel Vogel (20-00479)

The Hon. Foye A. Smith, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated June 18, 2020, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Carmen Y. Zayas, Clerk

The fiduciary is: Ladina Brigitta Vogel
c/o Danielle Paulette Ferrucci Shipman &, Goodwin LLP
One Constitution Plaza Hartford, Ct 06103

Jurg Erich Vogel
C/O Danielle Paulette Ferrucci, Shipman &, Goodwin LLP
One Constitution Plaza Hartford, Ct 06103

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF Lynne A. Robinson (20-00441)

The Hon. Foye A. Smith, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated June 23, 2020, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Carmen Y. Zayas, Clerk

The fiduciary is: Rymia Robinson-Shorter
C/O Matthew J Lefevre Law Offices Of, Matthew Lefevre, Esq PC
38 Woodland Street, Hartford, CT 06105

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF Issac Miguel Alvarez (20-00439)

The Hon. Foye A. Smith, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated June 22, 2020, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Carmen Y. Zayas, Clerk

The fiduciary is: Miguel Angel Alvarez Jr.
C/O Lee Andrew Gold Butler Norris & Gold
254 Prospect Avenue Hartford, Ct 06106

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF Kaivon C. Glover (20-00456)

The Hon. Foye A. Smith, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated June 22, 2020, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Carmen Y. Zayas, Clerk

The fiduciary is: Priscilla Johnson,
110 Lyme Street Hartford, CT 06112

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF Anthony C. Swaby (20-00448)

The Hon. Foye A. Smith, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated June 22, 2020, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Carmen Y. Zayas, Clerk


The fiduciary is: Sharon McKinney
c/o Rebecca Mathurin Vicente Beckett Law, LLC,
543 Prospect Avenue Hartford, Ct 06105

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF Linnette L. Clarke, AKA Linnette Louise Clarke (20-00503)

The Hon. Foye A. Smith, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated June 19, 2020, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Francesca Knerr, Esq., Assistant Clerk

The fiduciary is: Jolet Creary and Norris Clarke
c/o Richard P Kuzmak, McVane Bellobuono Ku
801 Maple Avenue Hartford, Ct 06114



Coronavirus Testing Sites in Hartford

Testing will be one of the keys to Hartford’s recovery from the current Coronavirus (also known as COVID-19) pandemic. While anyone exhibiting symptoms of the virus (dry cough, fever) should be tested, it is recommended that all city residents who regularly come into close proximity with large numbers of people also be tested. This would include those living in large and medium size apartment buildings and those who use mass transit.

To facilitate the testing of as many city residents as possible, there are now 10 testing sites in Hartford. No insurance is required, nor is a doctor’s order. *In addition, the City of Hartford is providing free transportation to and from confirmed coronavirus testing appointments through Hartford 311. Residents can call 860-757-9311 Monday – Friday, 8 AM – 5 PM to schedule a ride.*

Hartford COVID-19 Testing Sites

- CVS Rapid Testing Site, Arroyo Recreation Center in Pope Park. Results in 15-45 minutes, rather than one to six days as is normal for other testing sites. Open Monday through Friday. To make an appointment, call the City of Hartford 311 Info Line or 860-757-9311. The test is free and you do not need insurance or a doctor’s prescription.
- Hartford Hospital, 560 Hudson St. Daily, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.: Drive-thru and walk-up testing is available. If you have a primary care physician, they will refer you. If you don’t have a physician or have other questions, call Hartford HealthCare’s clinical call center at 860-972-8100 or toll-free at 833-621-0600.
- St. Francis Hospital, 1000 Asylum Ave. Monday-Saturday, beginning at 9 a.m. Drive-thru and walk-up testing is available. No appointment is necessary. Testing for children is available. For information, call 860-714-4000, Ext. 1.
- CVS Pharmacy, 479 Blue Hills Ave.: Drive-thru only. Register online at [cvs.com/minuteclinic/covid-19-testing](https://www.cvs.com/minuteclinic/covid-19-testing).
- CVS Pharmacy,150 Washington St.: Drive-thru only. Register online at www.cvs.com/minuteclinic/covid-19-testing.
- CVS Pharmacy,690 Wethersfield Ave.: Drive-thru only. Register online at www.cvs.com/minuteclinic/covid-19-testing.
- Charter Oak Health Center, 21 Grand St. Daily, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Walk-in only. Make an appointment by calling 860-550-7500.
- InterCommunity Inc., 16 Coventry St. Testing Monday-Friday, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Walk-up and drive-thru available. No appointment required. For information, call 860-569-5900.
- Wheeler Clinic Health and Wellness Center, 43-49 Woodland St. Testing begins May 25. For information, call 860-793-3500.
- Community Health Services, 500 Albany Ave. Monday-Thursday, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm and Friday, 9:30 am - 4:30 p.m. Appointment required. Current CHS patients only. Call 860-249-9625 to schedule an appointment.

Hartford Land Bank Requests for Proposals

The Hartford Land Bank, Inc., a Connecticut nonstock organization and 501(c)(3) nonprofit established to be a land bank operating in the city of Hartford, Connecticut, has released two requests for proposals seeking help in acquiring and maintaining its initial inventory of properties. Responses are due July 31, 2020.

The Land Bank invites qualified property maintenance firms to submit pricing information for services described in its Property Maintenance RFP.

The Land Bank seeks proposals for professional services to provide rehabilitation cost & timeline estimates and construction management in its Rehabilitation Specialist & Construction Management RFP.

To request a copy of either RFP, please email info@hartfordlandbank.org or call (860) 335-0347.

CITY OF HARTFORD - PUBLIC NOTICE

JUNE 23, 2020

The City of Hartford will submit its Five-Year Consolidated Community Development Plan (ConPlan) (July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2025) and Year One Annual Action Plan (July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021) to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) on or around July 29, 2020. The Five-Year Consolidated Plan identifies housing and community development needs and proposes a strategy by which those needs will be addressed through five Annual Action Plans for the period July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2025. The Annual Action Plans address the intended use of entitlement grant funds under the four formula programs covered in the Consolidated Plan – Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA), Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), and the Housing Investment Partnerships Program (HOME).

The initial period for public comments on housing and community development needs was conducted via Public Hearing, community and stakeholder meetings, focus groups and a citywide neighborhood needs survey. A final 30-day comment period for the Year One Annual Action Plan and the Five-Year Consolidated Community Development Plan will commence on June 24, 2020, and will close on July 23, 2020.

The draft plans will be posted on the web at: <https://planhartford.com/public-notice>. All interested parties may submit written comments for consideration by the City to Joan Barere, at Joan.Barere@Hartford.gov. All comments will be included in the Plan.

A virtual public hearing for the purpose of obtaining public comments on the draft Five Year Consolidated Community Development Plan and Year One

Annual Action Plan and associated CDBG, HOPWA, ESG, and HOME funding allocations will be held on Monday, June 29, 2020, beginning at 7 PM, via the WebEx platform before the Court of Common Council. To sign up to speak please reach out to David Grant, david.grant@hartford.gov, or (860) 757-9738. The deadline to register is 6:20 PM on June 29, 2020. Once signed up, participants will be given a conference number and are asked to call in by 6:40 PM to receive further instructions. Language interpreter(s) for the hearing impaired can be available if requested in advance. For more information, please contact David Grant.

The Following table summarizes the proposed activities and allocations for the Year One Annual Action Plan (July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021). All allocations are subject to approval and final adoption by the Mayor and the Hartford Court of Common Council, and release of funds from HUD.

Year One Annual Action Plan July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021

Proposed Activities and Allocations

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT		ADMINISTRATION		(St. Elizabeth)	
ORGANIZATION/ DEPARTMENT	AMOUNT	SUBTOTAL, ADMINISTRATION		Open Hearth Association (The)	
PUBLIC SERVICES		\$814,888.80		\$25,087.96	
ActUp Theater Inc. - ActUp Youth Performing Arts Program	\$13,000.00	OTHER ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES (NON-PUBLIC SERVICE)		Salvation Army	
Artists Collective Inc. - Rites of Passage (ROP) Summer Program	\$8,000.00	City of Hartford / Development Services (Blight Remediation)		\$14,631.87	
BHCA - Youth Organizing and Leadership Academy	\$14,000.00	City of Hartford / Development Services (Carousel)		\$37,741.01	
Career Resources – STRIVE Hartford	\$8,000.00	City of Hartford / Development Services (Economic Development/Local Activities)		\$13,008.90	
Catholic Charities, Inc. – Parker EnVision Youth Development Programming	\$8,000.00	City of Hartford / Development Services (HPLF New Programming)		SUBTOTAL, SHELTER	
Center for Urban Research, Education and Training Inc. - Youth Development	\$22,500.00	City of Hartford / Development Services (HPLF Program Income)		\$178,938.22	
Charter Oak Boxing & Youth Development Inc. - Moving Forward: Hartford Youth Become Champions of Life!	\$35,000.00	City of Hartford / Development Services (HPLF Staffing)		PREVENTION	
Charter Oak Temple Restoration Association Inc. - Youth Arts Institute	\$25,000.00	City of Hartford / Development Services (Local Arts & Culture)		City of Hartford/Health and Human Services	
Children In Placement – Guardian Ad Litem Program	\$11,000.00	City of Hartford / Development Services (Low Income Rental Housing Coordination)		119,292.14	
City of Hartford / Health and Human Services (CAN Shelter Support Services)	\$75,000.00	City of Hartford / Development Services (Microgrant Initiative)		- Homelessness Prevention/Rapid Rehousing	
Community Partners in Action - The Resettlement Program	\$80,000.00	City of Hartford / Health and Human Services (Emergency Placement Services)		SUBTOTAL, PREVENTION	
Center for Latino Progress (CLP) - BiCi Co.	\$30,000.00	City of Hartford / Office of Sustainability (Home Energy Savings)		\$119,292.14	
Ebony Horsewomen Inc. - Equine Assisted Growth Learning and Therapy	\$10,000.00	Forge City Works (formerly Billings Forge) – Culinary Job Training at the Kitchen		ADMINISTRATION	
Gifted Onez Inc. (The) - TGO MLK	\$14,000.00	Hands on Hartford – ReSET Food Entrepreneur Support Group		Administration	
HARC Inc. - Capable Kids	\$8,000.00	Hartford Public Library – Immigrant Career Pathways Initiative		\$10,816.64	
Six-Week Summer Camp		HEDCO Inc. – Technical Assistance to Hartford Businesses		SUBTOTAL, ADMINISTRATION	
Hartford Artisans Weaving Center - Artisan Program	\$5,000.00	International Hartford LTD. - Business Counseling		\$10,816.64	
Hartford Food System Inc. – Little City Squirts	\$5,000.00	Journey Home Inc. - Career Pathways to Employment Program		GRAND TOTAL, EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT	
Hartford Knights - Hartford Knights Back on Track	\$8,000.00	Minority Construction Council Inc. - Small Contractors/Minority Woman Business Enterprise Technical Assistance Program		\$309,047.00	
Hartford Performs - Arts Based Programs	\$20,000.00	Rebuilding Together Hartford Inc. - Homeowner Retention		HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERSONS WITH AIDS (HOPWA)	
Hartford's Camp Courant – 2020 Summer Camp Activities	\$20,000.00	Riverfront Recapture - Riverfront Parks & Trails		ORGANIZATION	
Hispanic Health Council Inc. - Neighborhood Youth Center	\$15,000.00	Spanish American Merchants Assoc. - Small Business Technical Assistance Program		AMOUNT	
Judy Dworin Performance Project Inc. - Moving Matters! Multi Arts Residency at HPS	\$6,528.60	University of Hartford, Entrepreneurial Center - Hartford Small Business Technical Assistance		AIDS CT. Inc.	
Knox Inc. - Green Jobs Apprenticeships	\$24,000.00	University of Hartford, Upper Albany Main Street - Micro Business Incubator Program		\$137,000.00	
Lukumi Center of the Orishas Inc. – Dancing the Drums	\$4,000.00	Unallocated Non Public Services		\$166,980.00	
Mercy Housing and Shelter Corporation - Jumpstart to Jobs Program	\$11,000.00	SUBTOTAL OTHER ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES		\$101,148.00	
My Sister’s Place Incorporated – For the Love of Children Initiative	\$15,435.00	GRAND TOTAL, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT		\$330,000.00	
Open Hearth Association (The) - Shelter and Rehousing Program	\$31,000.00	EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT (ESG)		\$192,000.00	
Organized Parents Make a Difference Inc. - OP MAD at Kennelly School	\$9,000.00	ORGANIZATION		Human Resources Agency of New Britain (HRA)	
Read to a Child Inc. – Lunchtime Reading Program	\$10,000.00	SHELTER		\$143,686.00	
San Juan Center Inc.–Employment Assistance	\$14,000.00	City of Hartford McKinney Shelter		\$111,163.25	
South Park Inn – Homeless Veterans Peer Transition Support Project	\$15,000.00	Hartford Interval House Inc.		\$20,000.00	
Urban League of Greater Hartford - Housing Counseling Program	\$21,705.00	Immacare		City of Hartford - DIG Extension	
YWCA of New Britain - The Hartford Sexual Assault Crisis Service	\$6,000.00	Mercy Housing and Shelter Corp.		City of Hartford – HOPWA Administration	
Youth Challenge of CT, Inc. - Men's Home	\$9,000.00	\$13,000.00		\$35,374.00	
SUBTOTAL PUBLIC SERVICES	\$611,166.60			City of Hartford – Enhanced Employment	
				GRAND TOTAL, HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERSONS WITH AIDS (HOPWA)	
				\$1,263,881.56	
				HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM	
				ORGANIZATION	
				AMOUNT	
				Set-aside for Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) - 15%	
				\$215,165.55	
				Set-aside for homebuyer assistance, and rehabilitation/new construction of residential properties for homeownership or rental housing or any combination thereof - 75%	
				\$1,075,827.75	
				Program Administration - 10% of HOME Entitlement allocation	
				\$143,443.70	
				Program Administration - 10% of \$230,000 in anticipated Program Income	
				\$19,800.00	
				HOME Program Income - 90% of \$230,000 in anticipated Program Income - (For Activity)	
				\$178,200.00	
				GRAND TOTAL, HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM	
				\$1,632,437.00	
				GRAND TOTAL, ALL HUD ENTITLEMENT	
				\$7,406,993.05	